

Senate Resolution 1290

By: Senators Balfour of the 9th, Weber of the 40th, Williams of the 19th, Murphy of the 27th, Hawkins of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Performance Based Salaries for Teachers; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, under current Georgia law, teachers are paid pursuant to a salary schedule based
4 on individual experience and length of satisfactory service; and

5 WHEREAS, it is believed by some that advancing a step on a salary schedule based on years
6 of employment offers no sense of motivation for educators and that salary increases should
7 be driven by teacher effectiveness; and

8 WHEREAS, proponents of merit based pay contend that offering increased salaries for
9 improved student performance provides teachers a financial incentive to further develop and
10 refine their abilities as educators, which in turn helps their students excel scholastically; and

11 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to examine the issue of compensation for teachers in
12 Georgia and to determine the potential impact on student performance; student subgroups,
13 such as special education students; teacher recruitment and retention; teacher morale; and
14 other relevant factors with the goal of improving the current state of public education in
15 Georgia.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Performance Based Salaries
18 for Teachers to be composed of 12 members as follows: three members of the Senate to be
19 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, three members of the House of Representatives to be
20 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three local board of education
21 members to be appointed by the Governor, and three teachers, one each to be appointed by
22 the Governor, the Georgia Association of Educators, and the Professional Association of
23 Georgia Educators. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Lieutenant

24 Governor shall each designate a cochairperson from among their respective appointees. The
25 committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
27 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
28 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
29 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
30 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
31 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
32 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
33 committees from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate but
34 shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The
35 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
36 appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the event the committee
37 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
38 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2010. The
39 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2010.